



THE INFLUENCE OF FEMINISM IN CRICKET

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Abstract:

In typical cases, the sport, cricket, is a man's game that is compared to terrorism regarding cognitive and institutional inertia and has, for many years, been associated with anabolic steroids. But as they say, the only constant is change, and the status quo of society can only be reached forever with revolutionary efforts made by different men and women at 'breaking' different walls and stigmas that have existed for ages in some societies. This essay will examine how the women's liberation movement helped in bringing women's representation into women's cricket by focusing on gender transformation in women's cricket, particularly in aspects such as cricket administration, gender equity concerning salaries and wages in cricket, media, and leadership. Using the feminist perspective of such research, one can also look at how the women's movement in football undertook an activity that undermined the patriarchal norms and created opportunities for socially excluded women in the game. As mentioned above, women are not in a position to take an active part in engaging in cricket, and even those who are keen on cricket shy away from doing so. This result leads to questioning their engagement in the feminine sports and the worth of fighting it, and the conclusion would be that the measures of feminism concerning respect for women and women's values and pursuits have been taken for granted. This is what urged the maternalism in sports ... Ultimately, women's action in sports is neglected, as women's sports is a kind of racism in sports where the great majority of the women themselves are the oppressors in society who have no real ability to bring about any change in society. Feminism has even infiltrated cricket, as it has the broader sports world, and its effect has brought attention to gender mismanagement.

Keywords: *Feminism, Women's Cricket, Gender Equality, Sports Sociology, Pay Equity, Media Representation*

Introduction:

Throughout several centuries until today, people across the globe have been attached to sports, and they register different kinds of stereotypes, especially along gender lines. In terms of cricket, a sport whose sweat and tears can barely be confined to one region, women too are from such societies, albeit the seemingly self-conceited British imperialism. It is usually referred to as the gentleman's sport, as it is easily associated with social formalities such as chivalry, strength, gallantry, and territorial nationalism. Whilst girls and cricket had always been dear to one another in terms of function, they never met. A worldwide understanding prevailed that women's cricket, if it were to materialize, could be the next venture within the same space. Women's cricket was absent because of concerns about the appropriate levels of growth to be upheld, and also because



the object of women was not limited to providing visual appeal to women but more of a sex object for men, as the men played the game. And this exclusion, like a conservative intention, served to validate the oppression of females in contradiction to equality, and that ended favorably for men. It is one of those instances where societal mores stymie the growth and development of a talented woman outside the threshold of the public view.

Women have always raised their voices against the injustice and followed various feminist movements in the working of the society for over a hundred years, and there were also specific waves of feminism in the 19th and 18th centuries, highlighting how women are discriminated against in education, business, politics, and sports. It has been challenging to establish the exact location of the supposed wrongs, given that they were spread across as well as embedded in the social life of every inhabited subject. Other categories sought not equality but a different kind of empowerment. Surprisingly, even the favorite sport of the English elite, cricket, experienced a significant change in its gender balance over the past 20 years, although, as one can expect, a lot of resistance was met there as well. Such bold acts entailed the use of female athletes' images featured in the media, terms of negotiations for equal pay, and even what can be termed as customer activism performed by women by using a form of cricket-feminized politics.

Looking back, in the last couple of years, there has been a sizeable improvement in the development of women's cricket within the existing infrastructural materials globally. There have been a series of promotional cricket competitions, such as the World Cup for women, the Women's Premier League (WPL), and the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), among others. More and more competition increases it. In fact, the article mentions a seismic shift from what used to be marginalization and devaluation of female cricket to embracing and encouraging it, which shall actually depend on minor to zenith. Many sports disciplines, and cricket is no exception, charge the women's soccer players completely regarding income injustice, levels of participation, and so on.

In this text, we will be seeking to examine the reason why 'feminism and cricket' is being considered as feminists extend the extent of their practices and attempts to get viewed, i.e., hegemonic, and women's roles in cricket. I have also shown how the critical aspects of feminism stimulated theory and activism with a positive implication in cricket as a sport and how the feminist theory enabled women cricket players to overcome some of the bottlenecks associated with engagement in cricket. Further, there is a little survey on how such advances have taken place and how much is left, meaning how much gender inequality in terms of cricket, or rather the change through feminist principles, is more dominant. As such, in this regard, one may safely say feminism has had repercussions for women's cricket, let alone promoting the traditional game of cricket and perhaps causing a shift in the characterisation of cricket as a change-making mechanism..

Objectives of the Research

- 1) To examine the historical status of women in cricket and identify the gender-based barriers that limited their participation and recognition.
- 2) To analyze the role of feminist movements in challenging patriarchal structures within cricket institutions and governance bodies.
- 3) To evaluate institutional reforms and policy changes, including integration of women's cricket into national boards, central contracts, and pay equity initiatives.
- 4) To assess the impact of media representation and commercialization on the growth and visibility of women's cricket.
- 5) To study the development of professional women's cricket leagues and their contribution to gender empowerment and economic independence.



Research Methodology:

This study adopts a qualitative research methodology to examine the influence of feminism in cricket. It relies on secondary data collected from academic journals, books, ICC reports, cricket board publications, and media sources. A descriptive and analytical approach is used to explore institutional reforms, pay equity, media representation, and leadership roles. Feminist theoretical frameworks guide the thematic analysis, enabling a critical understanding of gender transformation within cricket's social and organizational structures.

The Influence of Feminism in Cricket:

Traditionally, men were associated with the game of cricket, a sport very much centered on the entertainment of boys and in which the boys did not see the men, and soccer was the only game that remained more of a men's business endeavors. It was prohibited even for most of the women to come out and play this sport, not necessarily because it was a spoilsport to fun, but because even today it is referred to as a men's game. Sex was restricted among all, which even stopped women from participating for many years. Still, as the feminist movement gained strength, some of these problems were overtly contested, and issues such as the right of all women to participate in all sports were increasingly considered a matter of equality. For instance, in the course of promoting these values concerning the female gender, certain transformations occurred within the unique field of cricket at various sectional, national, and international spectrums. Last, but not least, the Women's Big Bash League, The Hundred, and the Women's Premier League, among others, are things that have been put in place where women cricketers get paid courtesy of cricketing activities conducted around in and out of the globe. Respectively, in reporting, it has been made in such a way that now high-class women are examined by the content focused on accomplishment in defeating victorem formats, such as the ICC Women's World Cup. In addition, it seems like such societal norms have also been evolving as more women are braving the ladder to compete in various fields with the hope that such changes can be greatly affected because even the "best," that is, famous cricketers known in history, are mostly female cricketers. Being there 210 is still the issue of the pay gap, and there are fewer women in such fields.

Historical Background of Women in Cricket:

The integration of women into the sport of cricket is one that stretches over the years, dating back to the 18th century, as the earliest recorded history of the sport has it being played as early as 1745 in England. Despite this, women's cricket was very slow to develop and received little appreciation, and thus had less infrastructure built up than the one available for the men's game right from the beginning. Pending sustained efforts, women within the same period also teamed up in schools, local clubs, and suchlike places, but such activities were not made serious, especially for sport-loving girls or women who were in schools and colleges during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Women cannot play cricket. The notion was popular in those days since they believed that women already had enough responsibilities in society. For the very first time, however, the women were able to have their cricket body put in place, and this was the Women's Cricket Association (WCA), which came into existence in the year 1926. In the mid-1950s, the International Women's Cricket Council (IWCC) was constituted. This was followed by the Women's Cricket World Cup competition. The inaugural event of the Women's Cricket World Cup was held in 1973, five years before the inaugural event of the Men's World Cup. However, that women's cricket era is a byword and will be confined to history, as there is no more mention of the Women's Cricketing Association. Thus, however favorable the outlook for the future of women's cricket is at present, it was no better than the outlook in the 70's when the fringes of women's sport were in a late devolution stage, as a book was to say. Feminist movements of the 1960s and 70s



played an important role in addressing these imbalances. Feminist theories help in analysing, challenging, and changing traditional attitudes that consider sport as more masculine than feminine. They also help the analysis of how sports replicate gender inequalities, combat the dominance of the male gender, and promote gender through the idea of intersectionality, which enables the enhancement of women's professional cricket, rather than its emancipation.

Institutional Reforms and Policy Changes:

The most fascinating aspect of women's cricket in this century has been the eventual realization of their unique structures within national governing institutions, which saw the move towards more institutional approaches. The fact also remains that for a very long period of time, women's cricket as a sub-sect of a society worked with practically no financial base, little to zero physical infrastructure, and operational capacity. The emerging experiences of women, however, fueled by feminist concerns, have indeed rendered these flaws as structures of omission for which they also demanded women's equality in the frontiers of cricket as they do for men. The entry of women's cricket in the English and Welsh Cricket Board in 1998 and recognition by the Board of Control for Cricket in India in 2006 as a working committee were critical in increasing funding, provision of coaching, company and sponsorship contracts, and escalating rivalry to the international level. Aside from redesigning the organizational arrangement, the other issue that was stubbornly pushed by the feminists was the issue of equal wages, which of course always makes women raise their hands. Using examples, the differences in pay and match fee between men and women, as well as the ease with which men get sponsors, women are rendered captive within their countries of birth. Australia and New Zealand have both come up with laws on payments and central contractual contracting, which in effect further consolidated the budgets and the ambitions for career sportswomen. Most profoundly, 2017, in terms of coverage, will be rated as the most significant in the history of women's cricket when the ICC Women's World Cup was held and attracted massive crowds and secured large sponsorship and agreement revenues. One can also regard this as a very useful tool for women athletes, in particular when it comes to their image. Additionally, it is clear that the development of women's cricket, such as the creation of professional leagues, namely WBBL and The Hundred, as well as WPL, is an indication that the policy to minimize the discrimination in sports through gender perspectives is progressing.

Challenges and Continuing Inequalities

Of course, it is evident that some level of progress has been made with women's cricket, but a host of challenges remain. It is the work of gender activists that has had some impact on some structures being more pro-feminist; however, the upsurging levels of disparities with respect to women's and men's pay are high. Some women cricketers, for incontrovertible example, sometimes get as little as 1/10th of match fees or even fewer services and prices, including contracts, as well as prices and sponsorship monies. This is because in many sports and in instances where women are considered less prioritized in sports such as cricket, there is also a need for elaborate batting facilities. This, in fact, describes many such countries that have adopted an attitude towards the sport and cricket in particular, with the majority of participants being minor girls. Moreover, there are also social-cultural barriers, such as female genital mutilation, as well as poverty and violence against women, that exclude women from actively participating in various activities, especially in sports, where certain cultures do not believe that women are supposed to take part in such activities. It is lacking that women are under-represented in sports federations due to the poor outlook of many sports institutions, where female cricketers are outlawed. This discrimination has even more disadvantages since it is perennially experienced in case the female performer finds herself in a poor ethnic group with other predicaments. The female players have



been particularly strong in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and similar regions. They are fighting the male patriarchy as they should. Hence, women playing cricket emerges as a rather progressive force for social change in society in terms of marriage.

Conclusion:

The overall impact of feminism on cricket can be described as a significant one. Traditionally, cricket used to be a sport that was more acceptable and played by people who were male. Feminist terms allowed the disparity in both the systems about leadership, remuneration, and the way the desirable activities are the qualification standards presented to people, allowing for the development of women's cricket on an international level. Real achievements were also marked by the forward thrust of the right to form associations, the pressure of private enterprises in the creation of competitions, and even remuneration for labour performed. There are new approaches to making women's sports more attractive that have brought changes in mannerisms and attitudes towards those sports conducted by women. Things have also improved in terms of the kind of attitudes and principles of social structures that control the phenomenon of p. Nevertheless, some of these issues still pose a challenge to many women in sports. There are still some disadvantages that women face, especially in the labor force, while other women are yet to catch up with the rest of the world, courtesy of rapid developments and growth. Ergo, the pursuit of gender equality in cricket faces many challenges that need to be addressed.

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